

**AGENDA**  
**JOINT LEGISLATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &**  
**GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**Sen. Harry Brown**

**Rep. Susan Martin**

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**Thursday, January 7, 2016**  
**Room 643, Legislative Office Building**  
**9 a.m.**

- I. **Call to Order**  
Rep. Susan Martin
- II. **Overview of Landscape**
  - **Recent General Assembly Actions: Tax Policy, Agency Structure & Programs**  
Cindy Avrette, Research Division  
Aubrey Incorvaia, Fiscal Research Division
  - **State of North Carolina's Economy with an Emphasis on Examining the Rural/Urban Divide**  
Ted Abernathy, Economic Development & Strategic Planning Consultant
- III. **Measuring Economic Distress: Should Tier Designation Criteria be Modified?**
  - **Program Evaluation Division Report Overview: North Carolina Should Discontinue the Economic Development Tiers System and Reexamine Strategies to Assist Communities with Chronic Economic Distress**  
Sara Nienow, Program Evaluation Division
  - **NC Department of Commerce**  
Jeff DeBellis, Labor & Economic Analysis Division
    - **Response to PED Report**
    - **Report Overview: Measuring Economic Distress in North Carolina**
  - **Appalachian Regional Commission's Assessment of Distress**  
Kostas Skordas, ARC Division of Regional Planning & Research Director
- IV. **Committee Discussion: Should the Tier Designation System be Updated?**
  - **What is the regional boundary of assessment?**
  - **Which variables should be included?**
  - **Should absolute categories be mandated or should an index approach be adopted?**
  - **Others?**
- V. **Adjournment**

Next Meeting Date: Thursday, February 4, 2016, 9am Room 643 LOB